Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03249 040933Z

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 /028 W
---------- 044803
R 040600Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8083

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3249

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP, EAID, AS
SUBJ: OTHER DONOR ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS

REF: (A) STATE 093372 (B) STATE 58729

1. UPON RECEIPT OF STATE 58729 THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY PRESENTED THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED THEREIN TO THE AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY (ADAA). WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THE EMBASSY'S LETTER WAS FILED AWAY WITHOUT ANY ACTION HAVING BEEN TAKEN ON IT AND WITHOUT IT HAVING BEEN REFERRED TO THE PROPER ACTION OFFICER. IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE EMBASSY QUESTIONED THE ACTION OFFICER AS TO THE PROBABLE DATE OF A REPLY THAT HE LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE EMBASSY'S LETTER AND WAS ABLE TO "FIND" IT AND DEVOTE ANY ATTENTION TO A REPLY. THE EVENTUAL REPLY HAS BEEN FURTHER DELAYED AS ADAA WAS "EXTREMELY BUSY IN RECENT WEEKS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF OUR PROGRAMS AND POLICIES".

2. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED, HOWEVER, A RESPONSE FROM ADAA WHICH IS TRANSMITTED IN FULL. IN REPLY REFERENCES TO 1972/73 ETC. REFER TO THE AUSTRALIAN FISCAL YEARS WHICH RUN FROM JULY 1 TO JUNE 30. ALL FUNDS ARE LISTED IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS WHICH MAY BE CONVERTED TO U.S. DOLLARS AT THE FOLLOWING RATES OF EXCHANGE: 1972/73, A$1.00 EQUALS US$1.284; 1973/74, A$1.00 EQUALS US$1.475; 1974/75 A$1.00 EQUALS US$1.359; 1975/76 A$1.00 EQUALS US$1.268.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 03249 040933Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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EM THE TEXT OF THE ADAA REPLY FOLLOWS:
QTE WE HOPE THAT THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES TO YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE:
QTE A. (I) TOTAL ODA 1972/3 TO 1974/75 WAS $807,735,000.
(II) OF THIS AMOUNT APPROXIMATELY $1.6 M. WAS SPENT ON MULTILATERIAL POPULATION PROGRAMS.
(III) AUSTRALIA'S AID PROGRAMS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW AND NO PROJECTIONS CAN BE MADE FOR THE FUNDING OF POPULATION PROGRAMS IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS APART FROM FUNDS ALREADY COMMITTED IN BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN (SEE C).
QTE B. AUSTRALIA RECOGNISES THE CLOSE TWO-WAY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS, AND IS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES AS PART OF AN INTEGRATED EFFORT TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN DEVELOPING NATIONS.
QTE C. ASSISTANCE TO MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL POPULATION PROGRAMS OVER THE PERIOD 1972/3 TO 1975/6 IS SET OUT IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:
AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AID TO POPULATION PROGRAMS 1972/73 TO 1975/76 - YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE - $A'000:
(READ IN FIVE COLUMNS)
MULTILATERIAL PROGRAMS; 1972/73; 1973/74; 1974/75; 1975/76.
UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES, 100, 225, 285, 325.
INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDN., 50, 125, 164, 180.
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF POPULATION, BLANK, 10, 20, 25.
POPULATION PROGRAM OF THE OECD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, BLANK, 17, 17, 20.
WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCES, BLAND, BLAND, 21, BLANK.
TOTALS, 150, 377, 507, 550.

BILATERAL PROGRAMS 1975/76 ONLY
BANGLADESH - IDA POPULATION PROJECT 500 ($2 M. OVER 1975-78)
PAKISTAN POPULATION PROJECT 25

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 03249 040933Z

QTE D E & F AS THE MAJORITY OF OUR AID IN THIS AREA IS DIRECTED THROUGH MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS, NO EMPHASIS CAN BE SAID TO BE GIVEN TO ANY PARTICULAR AREA OF POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA OF POPULATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO BANGLADESH IN THE FORM OF A CASH GRANT THROUGH AN IDA SPONSORED PROJECT, AND TO A PAKISTAN FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM IN THE FORM OF AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT AND CONDOMS TO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

SUPPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN EXISTING PROGRAM.
QTE G. IN ADDITION TO THE ASSISTANCE MENTIONED ABOVE, AUSTRALIA PROVIDES CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR POPULATION PROGRAMS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA THROUGH ITS DIRECT BUDGETARY SUPPORT PROGRAM. THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT PLACES A HIGH PRIORITY ON HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL, INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, TO STATE THE ACTUAL PROPORTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN BUDGET SUPPORT WHICH IS SPENT ON THIS SECTOR.
QTE H. AUSTRALIA'S ASSISTANCE TO POPULATION PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPING COUNTIRES IS ADMINISTERED BY OFFICERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY, AND IS DIRECTED MAILY THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL AGENCIES LISTED IN C, AS WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES ARE WELL EQUIPPED TO HANDLE PROGRAMS OF POPULATION RESEARCH AND PLANNING. ASSISTANCE IS ALSO GIVEN TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SUCH AS COMMUNITY AID ABROAD AND THE FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN WHO ARE INVOLVED IN SMALLER PROGRAMS IN VARIOUS ASIAN COUNTRIES.
QTE I. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM, NO COMMENT CAN BE MADE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SHIFTS IN FUNDING PRIORITIES TO ALLOW AN INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE TO POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS.

QTE WE MUST APOLOGISE FOR OUR LATE REPLY TO YOUR LETTER, BUT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY BUSY IN RECENT WEEKS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF OUR PROGRAMS AND POLICIES. END QTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FAMILY PLANNING, REPORTS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER03249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760171-0184
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760595/aaaaddhl.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 93372, 76 STATE 58729
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OTHER DONOR ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS
TAGS: SPOP, EAID, AS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006